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for her, and towed, or proceed under her own steam, to the docks for discharge of cargo. All officers and crew shall be detained on board, under guard, until the completion of the discharge of cargo, while the vessel is at the dock, and until the return of the vessel to the quarantine station. Immediately upon the completion of the discharge of cargo, the holds shall be fumigated with sulphur and the vessel shall be returned to the quarantine station and permitted to take on her crew before proceeding to sea.

20. This circular supersedes all previous department circulars relating to special quarantine regulations for fruit vessels.

GEORGE B. CORTELYOU, *Secretary.*

#### BRAZIL.

##### Para—Yellow Fever on Steamship.

Consul Pickerell reports March 16:

A patient suffering from yellow fever was left at this port by the steamship *Cearense*, which sailed March 12 for Barbados.

#### CHINA.

##### Status of Plague.

Minister Calhoun at Peking reported February 28 to the Department of State:

It is now generally admitted that plague is diminishing in severity in the centers in which it first appeared. Effective measures are being taken along the lines of communication, both railway and steamship, to prevent the further spread of the disease. According to reports from American consuls throughout the affected area the pestilence is spreading steadily in north Manchuria and to a certain extent in north China, but as the disease spreads south, the bacillus seems to be losing its vigor, and the epidemic is therefore gradually abating. Slight increases of plague deaths are reported from Chefoo and other cities in Shantung, but at places in Chili Province the conditions continue much the same. At Tientsin only a few sporadic cases occur. There have been no plague deaths recently in the foreign concessions, and in the native city the work of isolating contacts and combating plague is being carried out. At Fuchiatien and Harbin the daily cases are almost nil, and at Mukden and Changchun the deaths are diminishing in number, and what few cases there are seem to be carefully segregated. For the past three weeks there have been no authenticated cases of plague reported in Peking. The train service on the Imperial Railway of North China is still confined to first and second class passengers and to carrying the mails, while on the Peking-Hankow Railway the third-class passengers are inspected by medical officers on the train. The quarantine station at Shanghai-kuan is still rigidly maintained, and all traffic between that place and Mukden is still suspended. Traffic on the northern section of the Tientsin-Pukow line has been resumed.

From the numerous reports received at the legation, the disease seems to have spent its initial force, and the coming of milder weather may see the disappearance at least of the pneumonic form. It is hoped that the present precautionary measures as to sanitation and isolation may prevent an outbreak of the bubonic form.

##### Amoy—Plague and Smallpox.

Acting Asst. Surg. Bonthius reports March 8 and 13:

Plague continues present in the surrounding country. During the week ended March 11, 4 deaths from plague and 2 from smallpox were reported in the city of Amoy.